



TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1875.

City School Report.

"The Third Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools for the city of Alexandria, Va.," is a neatly printed pamphlet of some twenty pages, containing much valuable information relative to our schools. After a brief sketch of the proceedings of the year, the changes in trustees, teachers, &c., &c., it gives the statistics of the last four years, showing a gradual decrease in the number of children enrolled, but an increase in the average attendance. Thus, while the rolls for 1873-'74 show that one hundred and forty-three less pupils attended than in the year preceding, three more were in average attendance; in other words, those who entered stuck.

The Superintendent thinks, however, that fewer children attended school at all than in former years, giving the following statement in support of his opinion:

"An examination of the school census shows that of the 4,351 persons of school age (5 to 21) 258 are under six and just one thousand between sixteen and twenty-one; so that there are 3,093 between the ages of six and sixteen. Of these seven hundred and sixty-four, not quite twenty-five per cent attended public schools.

"By the courtesy of Mr. Henry J. Nevett, then Assistant Commissioner of the Revenue, I was enabled to obtain a statement of the number of pupils attending most of the private and parochial schools, and estimating the attendance at the schools which were overlooked, or the conductors of which refused information on the subject, (for I regret to say that some two or three were discourteous enough to do so,) I found that the whole number of such pupils, after deducting those residing outside the city limits, or under six or over sixteen, was about eight hundred, or twenty-five per cent. more.

"Thus it will be seen that only half our youth between six and sixteen received any education whatever during the year. Lynchburg had forty-three per cent. of her entire school population (5 to 21) in her public schools; Staunton, upwards of forty; Petersburg, thirty-three; Richmond, twenty-seven; Portsmouth, twenty-five; and Norfolk, twenty-four, while we had but nineteen, the smallest in the State, and probably, the smallest in the Union. Washington, with 17,403 white persons between 6 and 17, by the census of 1870, had 5,414 in private schools; nearly eighty-five per cent. being under instruction, while we have but fifty-five per cent. of those between 6 and 16. In the colored public schools of Washington, the enrollment was nearly fifty per cent. of the population between 6 and 17, and in Georgetown it was forty-seven per cent. while our enrollment in all colored schools, public and private, was but thirty-six per cent. of those between 6 and 16."

He adds: "These facts are alarming, and it is our manifest duty to apply a remedy as soon as possible. The question is, what is that remedy? The most obvious answer to that question is, 'a compulsory school law.' But nine States of the North and West, have already enacted such a law, and would it not be well for us to await the result of their action before trying the experiment? I presume it would. Yet I cannot see in a compulsory law, any such invasion of private right as its opponents discover. No State provides that the child shall attend a public school, or, in fact, any school at all; but merely that it shall be taught some months during the year; the chief objection to the law being that those months are too few. If all men are to vote on my rights of persons and property, I have the right to demand that they qualify themselves to understand those rights. If I am to be taxed to support schools, I have a right to ask that those for whom they are established be required to attend them. It may be said, indeed, that some parents require the labor of their children; in the present impoverished condition of our country that is doubtless true; but why not provide, for the present, that children must either go to school or work? Why should the many, white and black, who are growing up in idleness about our streets and suburbs, trespassing on fields and gardens, and committing petty thefts, be sheltered behind the few,—the very few,—who do really work?"

After giving the items of receipts and expenditure, and contrasting the cost of education here with that of the other cities of the Commonwealth, (all of which we have published heretofore,) and speaking of the services rendered to the community by the parish schools of Christ and St. Mary's Churches, and the colored school taught by Mr. Lloyd, under the auspices of the Episcopal Church, which he says educate one-fourth as many children gratuitously as there are in the public schools, and thus save two or three thousand dollars a year to the tax payers, he proceeds to speak as follows of the improvement in schools:

"On the 31st of December, in the four years our schools have been in operation, we have had the following enrollment, viz:

	1871	1872	1873	1874
White Children	447	420	291	493
Colored Children	184	277	261	281

Total 631 697 552 774

And the average attendance has been

	1871	1872	1873	1874
White Children	360	349	353	440
Colored Children	156	246	238	266

Total 516 595 591 706

"From this exhibit it will be seen that while both the enrollment and attendance of white children had been steadily decreasing up to 1874, on account, I have no doubt, of the miserable accommodations for such children, they have now, since our new school house has been in use, suddenly increased, the former more than twenty-six, the latter twenty-five per cent. In the colored schools there has been (with the exception of a small decrease last year) a steady increase from the beginning, until we now have fifty per cent. more colored children on our rolls and over sixty-six per cent. more in actual attendance than we had at the end of our first year."

"The advancement in grade, too, has been steady, and though, as I have remarked, but few pupils remain in school long enough to enter the higher grades, we have now instruction in Physical Geography, Algebra, English Composition, and Drawing, and in Snowdon School in Vocal Music. On this point there has been complaint from two classes of people. Some think we are going too fast and too far, and that we spend far too much money for ed-

ucational purposes; they cannot see the justice of requiring them to pay for educating the children of others, but as they must do so, they demand that the facilities afforded shall be limited, and that nothing like hands-on buildings or comfortable furniture shall be provided. Others are of opinion that a high school should have had, say they, a high school, and we should take such measures that all the private schools will have to be abandoned, and all the young people educated in our schools. The money paid for the support of private teachers would educate them all without further cost to the public, and thus they could educate their children, which they cannot do now, because the grade of our schools is too low.

"Both these classes are, I am happy to say, very small, and the objections they urge are easily answered. It may be—it probably is—true that human wisdom might devise a better school system than we have; but we cannot get such one at present, and we cannot suffer thousands of children who will hereafter dispose of our lives and property as voters and jurors, yet whose parents are unable to have them fitted by education for the places they must fill, to grow up in ignorance, to the inevitable destruction of our rights of property and system of government; and if this work is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well. The buildings and furniture we have provided are, simply, the most economical we could procure, for the purchase of cheap things is never economical. As to the second class of objections, we may refer to the fact that our highest grades have never been filled as conclusive. A large sum is, no doubt, paid to private teachers; but we have no control of that expenditure, nor can we dictate to people to what schools they shall send their children. There is a way in which the thing may be accomplished, if it is considered desirable. We have a number of well qualified and experienced teachers who have been long engaged in teaching in our city. The prices charged by them have never been much more, as a general thing, than half those charged in the other cities of the State, and if they are offered salaries such as are given in other places to teachers of similar qualifications they will, no doubt, be glad to accept places in the public schools and their pupils will follow them. When I tell you that the necessary buildings and furniture to accommodate those pupils would cost forty thousand dollars, and that the current expenses of our schools would be doubled, you can see that we are not prepared for such an arrangement at present; for though the private teachers may now receive what you would have to pay them, much of it is now paid by people who own no property, and who would, under the new order of things, have their children paid for by those who do. I am convinced that the large majority of our fellow citizens consider our action wise, and are quite satisfied to let our system grow up, slowly but surely, by the addition of new grades as the demand for them becomes apparent."

After mentioning the difficulties under which the city has labored for the want of good school rooms, and giving a full description of the Peabody and Seaton buildings, and showing that \$675 a year, besides \$150 paid for an office has been saved to the city by the purchase of the first named, he says:

"We need another building, for Washington School is still divided, and the house occupied by the higher divisions is badly located and is too old to be enlarged by the addition of a story. In a few years, something must be done, and I know of no better thing to do than to continue the negotiations with the county respecting the old court house. It occupies the only central location in which suitable ground can be secured, and the house itself could be converted into a fine school house, at a very moderate expense, as I have hitherto shown. If the county will agree to adjust the matter with us by the time we are ready to proceed, I would strongly recommend the sale of the lot on the corner of Cameron and Columbus Streets, and the erection of a new house on the court house lot. Could we secure the building itself, we would have accommodations for fourteen hundred pupils, which we could, with a little trouble, enlarge to the extent of three or four hundred more. That far more extensive accommodations than we now have will be needed in a very few years, no one who has observed the growth of public schools in other cities can doubt; and it is, therefore, the part of wisdom to arrange now for the future, that it may not find us unprepared for its demands."

The report concludes as follows:

"Having thus laid before you as full a statement as I could of the progress and present condition of our schools, and the reasons for me to return my sincere thanks to you, as a Board and individually, and through you to my fellow citizens generally, for the generous confidence and cordial support which has been given me and the discharge of my official duties. I have endeavored to discharge those duties with fidelity, and have devoted to them all the time I could spare from the demands of my business, yet I am fully sensible that had my other engagements permitted, I could have supervised the schools much more profitably. Almost all our other cities have Superintendents who devote their whole time to their work, and until we are able to provide for such supervision, it cannot be expected that our schools will be as efficient as those which enjoy greater advantages in that respect."

THE COAL CARRYING QUESTION.—The Cumberland News, in referring to a statement made in regard to the difference of the cost of transporting coal by canal and by railroad, says:

"If the boatmen have agreed, as stated, to carry this year for \$1.25 per ton, the boatmen have not transpired. The truth is, the Boatmen's Union recently made a demand for the old or opening rates of last year. This question is, therefore, not to be settled when the trade opens. We have heard of no reduction at the wharves here other than the one lately agreed by the canal company; nor have the boatmen or the middle men reduced, although we did hear of one of the latter offering, to view of the hard times, to take ten dollars less on trippage, but getting the same price for his boat by more trippage."

"The committee appointed at the meeting on Friday last, we understand, preparing some figures to be submitted to the canal board, proposing to demonstrate that a further reduction is necessary and practicable. Mr. Hoffman, the chairman of the committee, has communicated with the canal board, and requested an interview on or before Tuesday. In the meantime shipments have not commenced, although the trade should be fairly on."

"We trust the committee will be able to do something with the canal board, although we have but faint hope."

FEMALE SUFFRAGE.—The question whether under the fourteenth amendment of the federal constitution, a woman who is a citizen of the United States and of a State, is a voter in the State, notwithstanding the constitution and laws of the State confining the right of suffrage to men alone, has been disposed of by the United States Supreme Court at Washington, in the St. Louis case of *Minor vs. Happersatt*. The court, arriving unanimously at the conclusion that the constitution of the United States does not confer the right of suffrage upon any one, and that the constitutions of the several States, which commit that trust to men alone are not necessarily void.

TAX ON CIGARS.—The internal revenue tax on cigars weighing not exceeding three pounds per thousand, was increased by Congress from \$1.50 per thousand to \$1.75 per thousand, the increased rate to take effect on and after the passage of the act.

Detective Rathbone, of the United States secret service, has arrested Jos. Lowmberry at Liberty, Toga, county, for the murder of Col. Butler, in Clearfield county, Pa., who was attempting to arrest him, in 1864, for desertion from the United States Army. He has been taken to Pittsburgh. Lowmberry is said to be a desperate character.

The case, involving the adjustment of the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia, submitted to ex-Gov. W. A. Graham, of North Carolina, and Hon. Jeremiah Black, of Pennsylvania, as arbitrators, with ex-Gov. Chas. J. Jenkins, of Georgia, as umpire, is progressing satisfactorily. The next meeting of the arbitrators takes place, by their appointment, at Washington on the 10th day of May next, when the great body of the testimony on both sides will be before them.

"Few die and none resign" used to be said of federal officers, but times have changed, and now Gen. Spinner, who for upwards of fourteen years has been Treasurer of the United States, has tendered his resignation of that office, to take effect July 1—and people will no longer puzzle over the hieroglyphics at the bottom of the U. S. currency. It is said Gen. S. will be succeeded by Mr. John C. New, cashier of the First National Bank of Indianapolis.

There was considerable excitement in the Wall-street market yesterday, and one of those wild scenes which have frequently characterized that place was re-enacted. Speculative shares were very feverish, and the dealings amounted to over four hundred thousand shares. From an eighth to one per cent. per day was charged for the use of gold, the latter being, of course, at the startling rate of 365 per cent. per annum.

Benj. Robinson, colored, was tried before the Circuit Court of Middlesex at its last session, as an accomplice of Rufus R. Fisher in the murder of John W. Ross, and sentenced to nine years' confinement in the penitentiary. Fisher was convicted last fall and sentenced to fifteen years' confinement in the penitentiary. The murder of Ross was one of the most horrible that ever occurred in the State.

The Duke de Montpensier having applied to the Marquis de Molino, the Spanish Ambassador at Paris, for a passport to Spain, the Marquis declined to grant it. The reason alleged for the refusal was that a passport was given to the Duke ex-Queen Isabella would deem herself equally entitled to one, and the Madrid Government considered her return to Spain inopportune.

General Fitz John Porter's application for the appointment of a board of officers to review the findings of the court martial under which he was dismissed from the army, was briefly considered in the Cabinet meeting on Friday last, and the Secretary of War was directed to have a synopsis of the evidence alluded to by Gen. Porter prepared for the information of the President.

The colored people of Winchester, at a mass meeting a few days ago, under the auspices of the Grant and Wilson club, passed resolutions relative to the civil rights bill, indicating that they had no design to be intrusive, though valuing their rights and their desire to live in peace and harmony with the whites.

The Philadelphia Ledger says that there was a report current on Saturday that initiatory steps had been taken looking to an early adjustment of the difficulties at present existing between the managers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company and those of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

The Sinking Fund Commissioners of the District of Columbia have called in the remainder of the outstanding water stock of the old Corporation of Washington. The amount is about \$61,000, on which interest will cease on and after the first of April proximo.

In the Little murder trial at Winchester on Monday, Captain Birzer, of Alexandria, an important witness for the prosecution took the witness stand, and had not concluded his testimony when the court, at 4 p. m. adjourned for the day.

Mr. A. W. Wallis, living twelve miles above Falmouth, in Stafford county, had his dwelling house consumed by fire one day last week. There was no insurance.

Littell's Living Age, No. 1607, bearing date March 27th, completes volume One hundred and twenty-four of this eclectic weekly. The contents are very interesting and comprise the best selections from the best periodicals of the day. As the next number, the first in April, begins a new volume, a good time for beginning a subscription is afforded. With fifty-two numbers, of sixty-four large pages each, (aggregating over 3,000 pages a year) the subscription price (\$8) is low; or still better, for \$10.50 any one of the American 44 monthlies or weeklies is sent with The Living Age for a year, both post-paid. Littell & Gay, Boston, Publishers.

ESCAPED FROM LOUISA COURT HOUSE JAIL.—The Fredericksburg Herald says:

"At an early hour on Monday morning last, or during the preceding night, Dabney Jackson, colored, a prisoner in the jail at Louisa, Va., made good his escape by swinging down the door in his cell and swinging down to the jailer's room, which was unoccupied, and from which exit could readily be obtained. Dabney was imprisoned on the charge of tobacco stealing, and his trial would have come off most likely on Monday or Tuesday last. Jackson made an attempt to burn his way out a month or so ago. It will be recollected that on that occasion a colored woman who was in the room above the one in which the fire was kindled, suffered considerably during the fire, and died a short time thereafter. Jackson was indicted by the grand jury for the crime for which he was committed to jail, for setting fire to the jail, and being accessory to the death of the woman. The negro jail at that time was very hotly scented by heat and smoke and being taken out in the cold—he was doubtless accessory to her death, and fifteen or twenty years in the penitentiary might have been assigned him."

SAD ACCIDENT.—A little colored girl, four years old, was burned to death on Thursday last. Her mother had gone out to work by the day, and while an elder sister was absent in the evening gathering chips, her clothes took fire accidentally, and before she was discovered by neighbors, her clothes were burned off and her injuries so great that she survived only a few hours.—Fredericksburg News.

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NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the Times"

A mob of miners in a state of frenzied excitement went the rounds of the collieries at Buck Mountain, Eckley, Jeddo, Eborsvale, and Hazleton Pa., yesterday, disarmed the special police sent from Philadelphia, stationed at Buck Mountain, shot one policeman at Jeddo and badly beat two others, and forced miners at work to go along with them, with the determination to make them a Catholic priest, exhorting the mob to disperse, and at last accounts they were doing so. Should they repeat their outbreaks it is believed the operators will call upon the Governor for troops to protect life and property.

The ice gorges of the Susquehanna cannot hold much longer. The water has been running freely at Port Deposit and Havre-de-Grace since Sunday night, and has cut a channel through the gorge that grows wider every hour. There has been no general movement of the ice in either branch of the Susquehanna, but the final break up has begun at Wilkes-barre. If the lower gorges give way first, there probably will be no overflow; but if they remain firm when the rush begins from above, the disasters of the first ice flood may be repeated.

The feeling in regard to the famous Tichborne claimant, which is still maintained in England, with most singular pertinacity, had another remarkable illustration yesterday in a meeting in Hyde Park, estimated to number a hundred thousand persons. There was a great display of flags and banners bearing mottoes expressing sympathy with the demanding justice for the claimant. Resolutions were adopted declaring that there should be no rest until "the enormous judicial crime was rectified."

The Rhode Island prohibition State convention met at Providence yesterday, and was very fully attended. The present State ticket was nominated by acclamation. Henry Howard for Governor, Charles C. Vanzandt for Lieutenant Governor, the remainder of the ticket being the same nominated by the republican convention. It is understood that neither Mr. Howard nor Mr. Vanzandt have consented to this use of their names.

The Mexican excursion party left Washington yesterday for New Orleans, thence to Vera Cruz, by the United States steamer Dispatch. Senators Cameron, Dennis, Ransom, Alcorn and Anthony, ex-Senator Chandler, Governor Brown, of Georgia, Colonel Thomas A. Scott, and Ben Perley Moore make up the party.

Wilbur F. Storey, editor of the Chicago Times, was yesterday sentenced to imprisonment for ten days for contempt of the Criminal Court. The offence consisted in the publishing of articles abusing the members of the Grand Jury.

A New Bedford, Mass., dispatch states that the banking house of S. B. Burt in that city has suspended. The liabilities are \$300,000; assets claimed to be \$450,000. They say they will pay in full if an extension is granted.

The testimony given yesterday in the Beecher trial was mainly towards discrediting Tilton's statements in the case, and showing that he was actuated by sordid motives in his accusation of Beecher.

The coroner's jury in the East Boston murder case rendered a verdict last night to the effect that Mrs. Bingham came to her death by violence at the hands of George Pemberton.

The Chief Signal Officer has sent one of his observers to Georgia to investigate and report upon the recent destructive tornado in that State.

George E. Tyson, formerly assistant navigator on the steamer Polaris, has been appointed Captain of the Watch at the navy depot, Washington city.

Mr. A. W. Wallis has been nominated for Mayor by the Democrats of Annapolis. The election takes place on Monday next.

The Missouri Legislature adjourned sine die at noon yesterday, and was immediately convened in special session by Governor Harden.

On May 12, the second National Convention of the Millers' National Association will be held at St. Louis.

A girl, aged 14 years, committed suicide at Middletown, New York, on Saturday.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, March 29.—There are now 609 convicts in the Penitentiary, sixty more than at the close of the last fiscal year, and over 200 employed outside of the institution. Of those inside at least 300 are idlers. At this rate it will not be long before the number reaches 1,000. It will therefore become a serious question to provide them quarters unless in the meanwhile the railroad or canal from Buchanan to Clifton Forge is commenced, or operations on other public improvements are resumed. The convicts, we should judge, by the way, are not very wasteful, as an inventory showed the other day that they have only had 800 tin cups in two years.

Major J. Horace Lacy, I hear, would like to go to England to look after the State debt and direct the attention of the English people to the superior advantages of Virginia as a home for Englishmen. I have seen no one, however, who thought Governor Kemper would appoint him to the British mission.

There is a great stir among Southwestern members, and most of them are sending copies of Mr. Fulkerson's "ill timed resolutions" to their constituents, hoping to secure a return thereby. Of course Mr. H. Brooks, of Wythe, who, in addition to being a most influential and industrious member of the State's credit is not among them. Mr. Round, of Prince William, who has persistently played this card, subscribed, I may incidentally remark, for 1,000 copies of the Fulkerson resolutions, just ten times as many as Mr. Spratt, of Smythe, whose shoes Fayette McMullen is after, and seems bent on wearing.

Jack Carter, of Russell, will not be a candidate for re-election, and the Rev. Mr. Lippis, also of the House, will come to the Senate, I hear, certainly, from the Wise District. He has preached to the penitentiary convicts, and to what is known as the Hard Shell Baptists, a denomination very numerous and influential in some of the Southwestern counties.

Easter Sunday was observed with more of the pomp of music, with gorgeous flowers and decorations, than ever heretofore in this city. This, of course, applies to the Catholic, Episcopal and Lutheran Churches. The Monumental Church, of which Mr. Leo Wheat is organist, was packed from top to bottom, the windows even being filled, and the school room in the rear of the Church, which opens into it, was crowded also. It is estimated that there were two thousand people in the building, while many were turned away. The choir, under Mr. Wheat, rendered some of the finest music ever heard here, while his own performances were grand. Wheat has gained a

reputation outside of the city, and there were many people from the country to hear him on this occasion.

A special Pullman palace car, yesterday, passed through this city, containing Col. Thos. Scott, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Hon. Zach Chandler, of Michigan, Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania, and other notables. The party are on their way to Mexico in search of fun.

The Virginia Baptist Sunday School Convention meets to-day. It will be in session until Friday.

As will have been seen Senator Graham was expelled from the Senate on Saturday night.

The following card will be published to-morrow, addressed to the colored people of Virginia. Among the signers is J. B. Syphax, of Alexandria county:

"The undersigned State R-representatives, beg leave to represent to you the urgent expediency of holding a Convention for the purpose of considering and adjusting all political, financial, and other questions touching your interest and prosperity as freemen and members of a great Commonwealth. The following startling facts should be sufficient to inspire you with hope, and at the same time prove that your own hands, your own energies, and your own genius, must eventually lift you from the difficulties and embarrassments with which you are surrounded. You constitute five hundred thousand, nearly one half of the population of your State. You have no press, and whatever sentiments you may hold, or whatever emotions may burn in your bosoms, are almost totally unknown to your own fellow-citizens, to say nothing of the outside world. Many problems present themselves; and it is as clear as sunshine that you, yourselves, and not others, are competent to offer a beneficial and natural solution. You will at once see the wisdom in reflecting your own views and your own policy, to the end that human rights may be secured and preserved, and the glory and prosperity of Virginia enhanced by the labor and sacrifices of its citizens. It is, therefore, suggested that each city and county elect twice the number of delegates now provided for in the Constitution for the House of Delegates, and that said delegates convene in the city of Richmond, Thursday, the 19th day of August, 1875, at the hour of 12 o'clock m., for the purpose of considering questions above indicated, and all other matters which they may deem right and proper. And upon our purposes and desires, we invoke the favorable consideration of all good citizens."

Hon. R. M. T. Hunter is quite sick. Judge Hughes, of the U. S. Court, is in the city, and issued a number of orders in bankruptcy yesterday.

Mr. Wallace, of Stafford, whose name was first called last night, called up what is known about the Capitol as the "Ashland Maine Liquor Law." This gave rise to an unprofitable discussion which consumed the entire session. The bill was finally emasculated of its objectionable features and then engrossed. What a waste of precious time when but 48 hours of the session now remain, and the tax bill yet to be considered.

Gov. Kemper was on the floor last night, chatting familiarly with his friends, and taking decided interest in the proceedings.

W. K. Bowles was to-day elected Judge of Fauquier, by the Legislature. INSATIATE.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, yesterday, Lieut. Governor Thomas in the chair, bills were passed to amend the act to incorporate the town of Mt. Jackson, in Shenandoah county; to amend the Code in reference to tolls on ferries and bridges; to amend the act to prevent the obstruction of the free passage of fish in the streams of the State; to prescribe the times for holding the courts of the first judicial circuit; declaring the south fork of North Anna river, in the county of Spotsylvania, a lawful fence; to provide for appeals from the action of district school boards in certain cases, and to amend the Code accordingly; to amend the Code in relation to trustees; giving the consent of this State to the purchase by the United States of certain lands at Hampton and Winchester now used as military cemeteries, and ceding certain jurisdictions over them, etc.; directing the Attorney General to institute proceedings against the sureties of the late treasurer and the commissioners of the sinking fund; to amend the Code in relation to contributing members of volunteer artillery companies; to regulate the allowance by courts of fees to counsel out of property or moneys under their control; in regard to taxing costs; to provide for the relinquishment to the United States in certain cases of title and jurisdiction over lands and sites for light-houses, beacons, and other aids to navigation in the waters of the State; for the relief of Silas B. Johnson, late sheriff of Rappahannock; for the relief of the sureties of Alexander Scott, late sheriff of Caroline county; and to incorporate the Virginia State Grange of Patrons of Husbandry.

The bill providing for the issuance of new bonds for the Bank of Rockingham was rejected.

The House joint resolution in relation to Virginia's claim against the United States for advances made during the war of 1812, was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 20 to 12.

The bill to consolidate, re-establish and regulate the sinking fund of the State of Virginia was passed by—ayes 25, noes 2.

The Senate bill to amend and repeal certain sections of the Code with reference to the penitentiary was passed by a vote of ayes 24, noes 8.

The Senate bill to enlarge the accommodations of the Eastern and Western Lunatic Asylums was under consideration, when the chair was vacated until 8 p. m.

In the House of Delegates the tax bill was referred by a vote of ayes 61, noes 38—two-thirds not voting for suspension.

The Committee on Enrolled Bills reported among other the following acts, approved by the Governor, March 26, 1875: To authorize the appointment of an additional commissioner in chancery for the city of Alexandria; to establish a separate circuit court in and for the city of Fredericksburg; and to prescribe where the clerk's office of the circuit court of Alexandria county shall be kept; to amend an act to amend section 14 of an act to fix the terms of the circuit courts; to authorize the town of Danville to issue its bonds in payment of certain indebtedness; to incorporate the Virginia Mining and Improvement Company; to provide the manner in which property may be held and disposed of for the benefit of the magisterial districts in which such property is situated; for the relief of A. F. Creel and his sureties; to provide for the establishment of a true meridian line in each county of the Commonwealth east of the Alleghany mountains.

An anonymous letter to Mr. MacKinnon, advising him to be liberal to members of the General Assembly if he wished to have his refunding scheme adopted, and recommending lobby agents, having been sent by Mr. MacKinnon to the Committee on Finance, a resolution calling for the correspondence, etc., was under debate when the morning hour expired.

The House appropriation bill coming up, Mr. Fulkerson's amendment to increase the appropriation to the Central Lunatic Asylum from \$45,000 to \$50,000 was agreed to.

An amendment striking out the appropriation of \$15,000 to the Virginia Military Institute was rejected, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Talaferro, from the joint special committee to which the matter was referred, reported a bill making an appropriation of \$10,000 for receiving and placing in position the bronze statue of General Thomas J. Jackson, tendered to the State by English subjects.

He also reported the following joint resolution:

The Governor having transmitted to the General Assembly a communication from Hon. A. J. B. Borsford Hope, esq., M. P. for the University of Cambridge, tendering to this Commonwealth, on behalf of himself and other English subjects, a bronze statue of heroic size, by Foley, of the late General Thos. J. Jackson.

1. Resolved by the Senate and House of Delegates, That Virginia acknowledge with a proud and sensible pride this generous manifestation of English sympathy for her people, and admiration for her heroic son, gratefully accept the offering.

2. That the statue be erected on a pedestal worthy of the work, on some conspicuous spot within the grounds of the Capitol, to be preserved and cherished by the people of Virginia as a memorial of its distinguished subject and of the noble sympathies of its honored donors.

3. That the Governor be requested to give public notice, by proclamation, of the day on which the statue will be unveiled, so that the people may assemble on that day to honor the event.

4. That Mr. A. J. B. Borsford Hope be invited to stand on the occasion as the guest of the State, and that he be tendered by the Governor or the hospitalities of Virginia.

5. That the Governor be requested to communicate the above resolutions to Mr. Borsford Hope, and to him to be conveyed to the great acknowledgment of the people of Virginia.

6. That his Excellency the Governor, Colonel John L. Fulk, Chairman of the Senate Committee, General William B. Isherwood, Chairman of the House Committee, and Gen. Jubal Early, be and they are hereby authorized and commissioned, who shall be charged with the duty of receiving the statue, discharging such appropriation as may be made to erect, and making all arrangements and contracts necessary to carry into effect the foregoing resolutions.

Both bill and resolutions were passed and sent to the Senate where similar action was taken.

The joint resolutions proposing the present destruction of a great part of the unused State bonds in the treasury, and the destruction of the remainder on the 1st of January, 1876, were ordered to be engrossed.

A bill to authorize the voters of Accomac county to vote whether "ignor shall be sold or not in said county, &c.," was passed by 55 yeas to 49 noes.

The Senate bill to amend the Code, &c., as to grand juries (enabling county courts to empanel them,) was passed.

Conservative Organization.

RICHMOND, Va., March 27, 1875.

Chairmen of County Committees, in tendering their resignations, very frequently recommended to the Chairman of the State Executive Committee A, B, or C, as suitable persons to be appointed by him in their stead. The Chairman of the State Executive Committee is invested with the power to appoint and discontinue all such vacancies shall be filled by the County Committees, it being made their special duty to elect their own chairman in the plan of organization adopted by the last State Convention. It is true, in the absence of any such committee, and where the Conservatives of any county are not united in opinion, the Chairman of the State Executive